

The HANGMAN

Special Case
no. 27

Pirates
out of
the
Past



B. FINE

A STRANGE GHOSTLY FOG HANGS OVER THE OCEAN... BUT NO STRANGER IS IT THAN THE SHIP IT BLANKETS - AN ANCIENT SPANISH GALLEON



AND IN THE CROW'S NEST LAND! LAND DEAD AHEAD, CAPTAIN BALBO!



LAND AT LONG LAST! I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE LAND AGAIN!

SI, CAPTAIN BALBO! IT MUST BE MONTHS SINCE WE FIRST FLOATED INTO THE FOG!



YES! I WAS ALMOST BEGINNING TO THINK IT WAS BAD LUCK FOR US TO HAVE PLUNDERED AND SUNK THAT SHIP CARRYING THE SPANISH CHURCH'S GOLD!

HA, HA, HA, HA



IS THIS SOME JEST? AN ANCIENT SHIP WHOSE CREW SEEMS MADE UP OF ANCIENT PIRATES? AND YET WHEN THE PIRATE CAPTAIN GOES TO HIS QUARTERS, HE OPENS HIS LOG BOOK AND INSCRIBES IN IT SERIOUSLY ENOUGH

... THE DATE - 1498



MAKE FOR THAT COVE, MEN!



I, CAPTAIN BALBO CLAIM THIS LAND! WE SHALL BUILD OUR HEADQUARTERS HERE!



AND ON THIS VERY SPOT SHALL WE BURY OUR LOOT!



BUT UNSEEN, THERE IS A SPECTATOR TO THE BIZARRE SCENE ON THE BEACH...

GEE WHIZ... GOLLY! PIRATES! MAYBE THEY'RE MAKIN' A MOVING PICTURE!

A MOVING PICTURE... PERHAPS! AND YET THE CAST OF CHARACTERS SEEM CURIOUSLY SINCERE.

START DIGGING HERE, MATIES!

AYE, AYE, CAPTAIN BALBO!

DEEPER! MUCH DEEPER!

SEEMS LIKE THIS IS DEEP ENOUGH CAPTAIN! WE'RE NOT DIGGING A GRAVE!

SUDDENLY, THE CAPTAIN'S EYES GLEAM WICKEDLY AND HE DRAWS A PAIR OF ANCIENT PISTOLS...

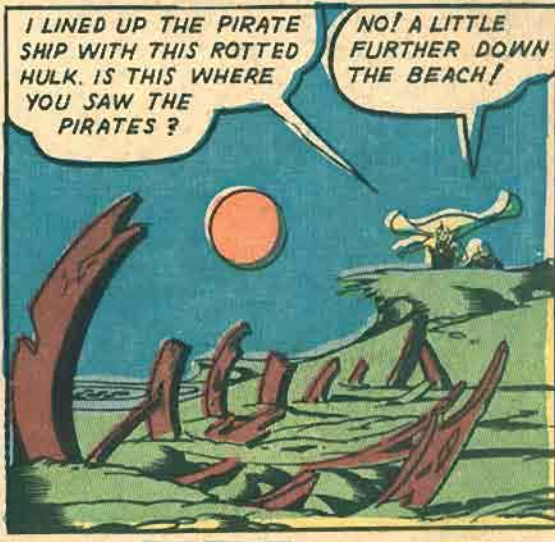
HOW RIGHT YOU ARE MATES! YOU ARE DIGGING A GRAVE! YOUR GRAVE! HA, HA, HA, HA!

FOOLS! DID YOU THINK I'D ALLOW ANYONE ELSE BUT MYSELF TO KNOW WHERE THIS TREASURE IS HIDDEN

HE... HE KILLED 'EM - THE MURDERER!

THEN IT IS, THE CURIOUS YOUNGSTER REALIZES THIS SCENE IS REAL...

I'M GONNA CALL THE COPS!



YOU WERE RIGHT...
AND IT SOUNDS AS
THOUGH THIS TRUNK
REALLY CONTAINS
COINS OF SOME
KIND! BY THE WAY,
WHAT'S YOUR
NAME, SON?

JOEY! BOY, I NEV-
ER DREAMED
I'D BE HELPIN'
YOU, HANGMAN!

HOLY COW! SPANISH DOUBLOONS, AT LEAST
500 YEARS OLD! AND LOOK AT THE DATE ON
THIS LOG BOOK!

1498

1

OH! OH! WE'VE
GOT COMPANY!
AND NOT VERY
PLEASANT
COMPANY
BY THE
LOOKS
OF THEM!

2

OKAY, BOYS!
I WON'T ARGUE!
IF IT'S YOUR
LOG BOOK YOU
WANT, HERE
IT IS!

3

I, CAPTAIN
BALBO, SHALL
KILL YOU!

SO YOU
SPEAK
ENGLISH!
THANKS
FOR THE
INTRODUC-
TION!

4

HANGMAN! HANGMAN
HELP!

BUT AT THAT MOMENT, THE HANGMAN HIMSELF, IS IN DEADLY PERIL AS THE PIRATE CAPTAIN DEXTEROUSLY DISARMS HIM, AND ADVANCES WITH THE WICKED LOOK OF MURDER GLEAMING IN HIS EYES!



BUT THEN, ANOTHER PIRATE SKULKS UP FROM BEHIND AND...



BOUND AND UNCONSCIOUS, THE HANGMAN AND JOEY ARE TAKEN TO THE GHOST SHIP...



I COULD KILL YOU ALL, NOW. BUT I SHALL SHOW YOU I AM YOUR FRIEND, AND POINT OUT ONE OF MY SPIES!



THERE HE IS—
CUCARACHA!



CAPTAIN BALBO,
YOU CURSED
TRAITOR!

KILL
THE
SPY!

HANG HIM
FROM THE
YARDARM!



SQUEALING WITH TERROR, THE COCKROACH FRANTICALLY TRIES TO ELUDE HIS BLOOD-THIRSTY VENGEFUL PURSUERS—AND A WILD CHASE ENSUES...



I'VE GOT YOU NOW...
I'LL CUT YOUR HEART
OUT!



I... I DIDN'T TELL
ANYTHING, I SWEAR IT...
CAPTAIN BALBO LIED!

KEEP AWAY FROM ME! KEEP AWAY
FROM ME! I WARN YOU... YOU'RE NOT
GOING TO KILL ME! NOBODY'S GOING
TO KILL ME. ...



...TIL I'VE REVENGED MYSELF
ON THAT SNAKE BALBO!



BUT THE COCKROACH
LOSES HIS BALANCE AND
TOPPLES OFF HIS PERCH.

1

A
A
I
E
E

2

STILL ALIVE AND
KICKING, EH!
FEED 'IM TO THE
SHARKS, MEN!

3

AS FOR YOU, CAPTAIN BALBO,
WE'RE NOT THROUGH WITH
YOU YET! WE WANT OUR
SHARE OF THAT LOOT—AND
WE WANT IT NOW!

CERTAINLY, YOU
GET YOUR SHARES!
YOU DON'T THINK
I'D CHEAT YOU,
DO YOU?

NEVER
MIND THE
TALK! JUST
DIVIDE
THE
SPOILS!

JUST A MINUTE, ALL OF YOU! I DON'T KNOW
WHO YOU ARE—OR HOW YOU GOT HERE! BUT
YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN TO ME! IT'S POINTLESS
TO SQUABBLE AMONG YOURSELVES ABOUT
YOUR BLOODY SPOILS!

IF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE, THEN YOU ALL
SHOULD HAVE DIED MORE THAN 4
CENTURIES AGO! THIS IS THE YEAR 1943!
THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO IS GIVE

YOURSELVES UP TO
THE PROPER
AUTHORITIES!

HE'S A FILTHY AGENT OF KING FERDINAND, I SAY LADS TRYIN' TO SAVE HIS SKIN WITH A PACK OF LIES!

IT'S TRUE I TELL YOU!

STRING 'IM FROM THE YARDARM!

CUT HIS GIZZARD OUT!

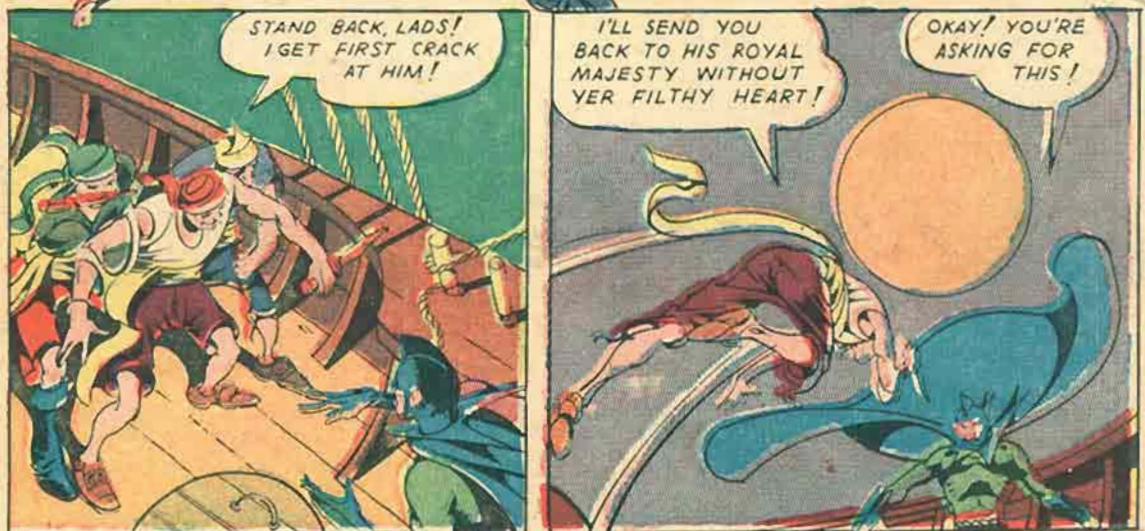
IT'S A TRICK TO ROB US OF OUR LOOT!



STAND BACK, LADS! I GET FIRST CRACK AT HIM!

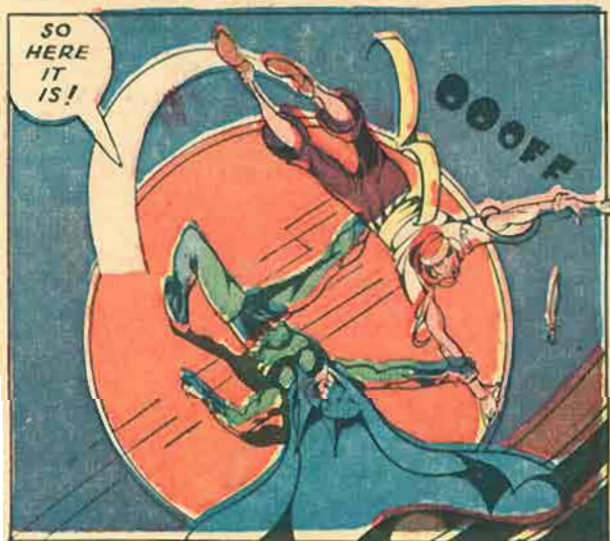
I'LL SEND YOU BACK TO HIS ROYAL MAJESTY WITHOUT YER FILTHY HEART!

OKAY! YOU'RE ASKING FOR THIS!



SO HERE IT IS!

OOOFF



SPLASH



HELP MATES!
A SHARK!
HELP...



YEEHOO W....
HE'S GOT ME BY
THE LEG!....



AT 'IM LADS! WE'LL
FINISH 'IM OFF
QUICK!

WOW... LOOK'S LIKE
MY GOOSE IS COOKED!
I CAN'T FIGHT THE
WHOLE CREW!
UNARMED!



JUST AS THINGS SEEM HOPELESS FOR THE
HANGMAN, FATE COMES TO HIS AID IN THE
SHAPE OF AN OCTOPUS, DREAD DENIZEN OF
THE DEEP, ATTRACTED BY THE SMELL OF
BLOOD...



AND THE HANGMAN, TRUE TO HIS
CODE OF HONOR, GOES TO THE AID
OF HIS HELPLESS ENEMIES...



NOW'S MY CHANCE TO GET RID OF THAT ACCURSED KING'S AGENT... AND SOME OF THOSE MUTINOUS SWINE, TOO!



WHAT IN... THE RAT'S TURNING THE CANNON ON HIS OWN MEN!



AN ANCIENT BUT MURDEROUS WEAPON, CUTS A WIDE SWATH OF DEATH IN THE RANKS.



AND AT THAT MOMENT...



YOU ESCAPED THE HANGMAN IN YOUR TIME CAPT. BALBO! BUT I'LL BE YOUR HANGMAN IN THIS CENTURY!



YOU'LL BE A DEAD HANGMAN AS SOON AS I PULL THIS...

UGH



I TOLD YE THE COCKROACH'D GET HIS REVENGE CAPTAIN BALBO!



THEY'RE ALL DEAD... EVERY LAST ONE OF THE CREW!

HANGMAN! LOOK, I FOUND THE LOGBOOK!



HMM... IT'S BALBO'S LOG BOOK ALL RIGHT! WITH ALL HIS CRIMES RECORDED HERE! CRIMES COMMITTED IN THE 15TH CENTURY!

DO YOU REALLY THINK IT'S TRUE HANGMAN?



I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK, JOEY. IT ALL SOUNDS SO FANTASTIC, AND YET... JOEY! WATCH OUT! THAT MAST! IT'S TOPPLING OUR WAY!

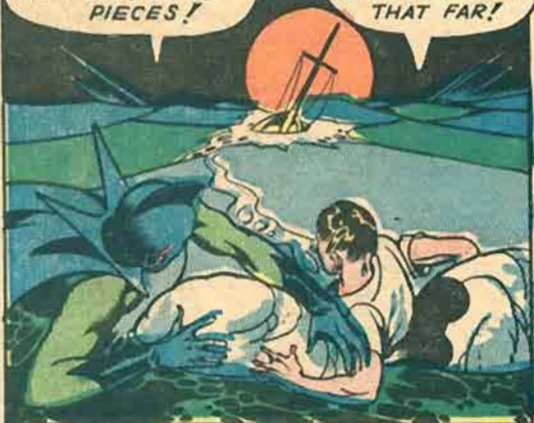


JUMP! THE WHOLE SHIP IS CRACKING UP. IT'LL SINK ANY MINUTE!



THAT'S FUNNY, ONE MINUTE IT SEEMED SOLID ENOUGH, AND THE NEXT, IT WENT COMPLETELY TO PIECES!

HOW'RE WE GONNA GET BACK TO SHORE!... I CAN'T SWIM THAT FAR!



FORTUNATELY JOEY'S QUESTION IS ANSWERED BY A COAST GUARD CUTTER WHICH COMES STEAMING UP



I DON'T GET IT. WE JUST PICKED YOU UP - AND NOW YOU WANT TO GO DOWN IN A DIVING HELMET? WHY?

TO BRING YOU PROOF OF A STORY I HARDLY BELIEVE MYSELF! PROOF THAT WENT DOWN WITH THAT SHIP!



GREAT SCOT! THIS IS THE SPOT IT SANK. I'M POSITIVE! AND YET...



THE SHIP AND THE CREW ARE ALL ROTTED AWAY - JUST AS THOUGH THEY'D BEEN HERE FOR CENTURIES...



WELL, HANGMAN, ARE YOU READY TO TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT? DID YOU GET THE PROOF YOU WERE LOOKING FOR?



YES, CAPTAIN, I CONVINCED MYSELF! AS FOR THE STORY, IT WOULDN'T LOOK GOOD AS AN OFFICIAL REPORT - SO PERHAPS IT HAD BEST BE LEFT UNTOLD!

